THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The employees of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC) and Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) have been paid salaries and wages upto the month of January, 2000. The employees of Refractory works of Burn Standard have been paid salaries and wages upto the month of April, 2000 and the employees of Jessop and Co. have been paid salaries and wages upto the month of February, 2000.

(b) Payment of salaries/wages is primarily the liability of the Company and is related to the generation of funds from its working. However, Govt. extends financial assistance to the companies for meeting their ways and means position to the extent possible within the budgetary constraints. Efforts are being made in this direction.

Jobs for Women and Disabled in NER

*115. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create more jobs for women and disabled persons in the States of NER during the Ninth plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith amount fixed for this project, actually released and utilised, so far; and

(c) if not, the specific reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government of India have no such proposal. However, there are a number of schemes being implemented in various parts of the country, including North East region, which, *inter alia*, aim at providing jobs for the women and persons with disabilities. A statement is enclosed (*see* below).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Statement

Jobs for women and Disabled in NER

Insofar as the person with disabilities are concerned, there is no proposal to create more jobs in the States of NER region in the Ninth Plan in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. However, during the current

financial year, 2000-01, an outlay of Rs. 31.70 crores has been earmarked for the North Eastern region under various schemes/programmes being implemented in the disability sector. Among the schemes/ programmes, the following aim at providing jobs:—

(i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Employment of Handicapped, the financial assistance for the Central Government to the State Governments and UT Administrations is given for running Special Employment Exchanges and Special Cells for persons with disabilities on 80% and 100% basis respectively. As per information available, the details of Central assistance given to three States in the North Eastern region are given as follows:—

S.No.	Name of the State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Nagaland (1992-93)	0.53
2.	Manipur (1995-96)	3.59
3.	Arunachal Pradesh (1996-97)	3.71
4.	Tripura (1997-98)	0.28

(ii) The Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) under the Ministry of Labour are playing an important role in providing vocational training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Out of 17 VRCs, two are functioning at Guwahati (Assam) and Agartala (Tripura).

(iii) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides that every appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment such percentage of vacancies not less than 3% for persons or class of persons with disabilities of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from (a) blindness or low vision, (b) hearing impairment, and (c) loco motor disability and cerebral palsy.

(iv) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is providing soft loan (with additional 2% rebate on interest for disabled women) to the persons with disabilities for taking up entrepreneurial activities. No loan has been sanctioned and disbursed in the North Eastern region since no applications for loan/self-employment has been received from the State Channelising Agencies of the region.

(v) Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organizations in different parts of the country, including North-East region for, *inter alia*, education, vocational training, income generation and gainful occupations. 21 organisations have been assisted so far under the Scheme.

2. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development is implementing a number of schemes for achieving the goal of self-sustenance and economic empowerment of women, such as, Support to Training cum Employment Programme, Setting up of Employment cum Production Units for Women, Socio-Economic Programme, Condensed Courses for Education and Vocation Training etc.

Disinvestment in PSUs

*116 CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether his Ministry has studied the proposal relating to the disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings, so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government considers the proposals for disinvestment on the basis of recommendations of Disinvestment Commission, BIFR and other expert Committees etc. in respect of specific Public Sector Undertakings before taking a decision in regard to disinvestment in such companies.

(c) The disinvestment of Government shareholding in PSUs is being done as per the declared policy to bring down the Government shareholding to 26% or below in the generality of cases. In cases of PSUs involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority shareholding. The Strategic Public Sector Enterprises are those in the areas of:

(a) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence aircrafts and warships.